

FR.TK REFLECTIONS -BAPTISM OF OUR LORD YEAR-C-2025:

THE AUTHOR OF BAPTISM IS BAPTISED:

Today we celebrate the first sacrament in Catholic church, the Sacrament of Baptism.

By virtue of Baptism we become Christians. The Baptism of our Lord marks too the end of liturgical season of Christmas.

Baptism is the DOOR to other Sacraments in the Catholic church.

In our first reading Isaiah 40:9-11 both the version of today which talks of humility of the servant of God who has been granted Holy Spirit to bring justice in the Nations talks of the person of Jesus Christ. (Isa.42.1-4)

The alternative version (Isaiah.55.1ff.) talks of HOPE for the people in Exile who Yahweh has pity on them and He is assuring them of bringing them back and feeding them with plenty of food and drink freely.

There is only one condition, to TURN BACK TO HIM AND REPENT. Obviously this talks of repentance and turning back to Him for he is rich in mercy and forgiveness.

This is linked to today's Gospel of Baptism of repentance. It gives an account of the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ by John on River Jordan. It is also another Epiphany. John announced him as the Messiah and the voice of the father announced, ***you are my son this day I have begotten you (Lk 3:21).***

The sinless and the real Author of Baptism subjects himself to repentance.

What a humility of Jesus. The sinless become like a sinner. He lined up with people to be Baptised, the waters of Jordan were filled with sins of all kinds of human immorality, the leaders didn't want to be seen with the sinners yet Christ who is sinnerless lined with them, he was not ashamed of them, he stood shoulder to shoulder with the sinners, what a humility.

Jesus showed solidarity with all of us who are in need of healing, he became like us. He was one like us in all things BUT SIN.

He didn't have to be BAPTIZED at all. John's Baptism was of repentance and Jesus had nothing to repent.

There are four peculiarities of this Baptism of our Lord to be noted.

The Baptism was of a tremendous importance to Jesus that it meant

-moment of Decision- thirty years he worked as son of a carpenter in Nazareth ***discharging his duties,*** well now After Baptism, he committed himself to what he came to do on earth. Calling sinner back to God.

-Baptism was a moment of Identification- he became one like us.

-moment of APPROVAL-This is my son of whom I am well pleased.that voice of God the father to show that Jesus was God.

-Moment of equipment-The role of the Holy Spirit was witnessed sign of humility and Gentleness.

Jesus was gentle especially to the WEAK and those WOUNDED BY SIN.

What happened to Jesus in Baptism should have happened to us during our Baptism,***we leave the old way of life,we make a decision to follow him,we identify ourselves with him and above all we became gentle and humble like him.***

This is the call of Baptism to all.

We must become sons and daughter of God the father and those words should be echoed to us today ***YOU ARE MY BELOVED SON/DAUGHTER THE ONE I HAVE CHOSEN.***

By virtue of Baptism we are chosen as children of THE FATHER.

We need to redeem the society in our time

There are so Many great men and women in History who have done a lot of positive things in the world.we need to join them to save our world and our society.

We need the change of heart the change of our attitudes.

It is you and me in our BAPTISM.

THIS IS WHAT JESUS CHRIST DID AFTER BAPTISM.